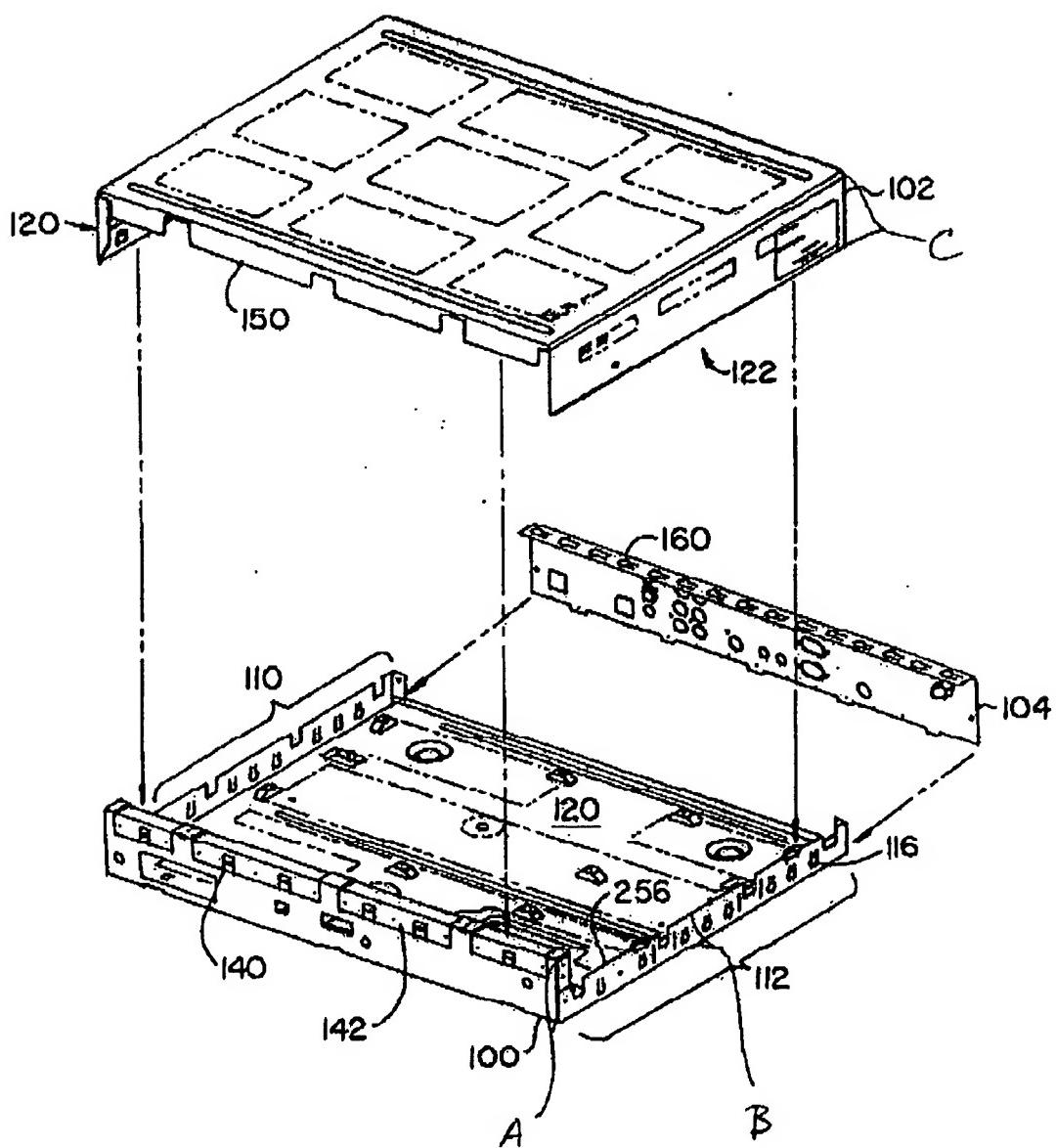


U.S. Patent

Feb. 27, 2001

Sheet 1 of 10

US 6,194,653 B1**FIG. 1.****BEST AVAILABLE COPY**